

# Town of Rockland SEWER COMMISSION



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Charles Heshion, *Commissioner*  
Daniel E. Duross, *Commissioner*  
Sherri Vallie, *Commissioner*

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**Rockland Sewer Commissioners Meeting**  
**587 R Summer St., Rockland, Ma.**  
**Recorded for Public Playback on WRPS**  
**(local cable access tv)**  
**[www.wrpsrockland.com](http://www.wrpsrockland.com)**

**February 2, 2023**

In Attendance: Chuck Heshion, Sherri Vallie, Dan Duross  
Rick Kotuch, plant manager

Applicants Bob Manzella, Jim Wheeler

## **Introductory Remarks**

This is a working session for the sewer commissioners. The public is welcome to attend. There may be votes at this session.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherri Vallie, to begin the meeting at 1:00 PM, December 7, 2022  
All in favor 3-0.

## **New Connections**

-Bob Manzella, duplex to be built to match existing buildings- 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, for each – Clean out located in crawl space outside and one inside, Rates will be based on 2021 fee schedule, Mr. Manzella has email from previous superintendent Keith Nastasia, Total fees are \$29,500 (I&I charged at \$20 per gallon), work not expected to start until end of summer or start of fall, this project is second on waitlist and Mr. Permit is valid for one year from date of approval and if no construction has taken place, the next applicant on the waitlist will move to that spot – **Motion by Mr. Heshion to approve this project with plans as drawn and fees discussed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Duross All in favor 3-0** Letter and fees will be mailed

-Jim Wheeler & Deb Keller - 48 Cary St, drawings have not been presented, this meeting is informational and to plan next steps – One parcel is now three lots – intent is to maintain one as a single family 48 Cary with existing service – Two family unit planned and retreat lot planned for third lot – Retreat lot is smaller frontage with long driveway – Service being requested is for duplex – Retreat lot to be built later – planned total 4 bedrooms for multifamily-this is not impacted by Moratorium, - Each unit requires a clean out, - applicants will have to return when plans are finalized – Better to run two sewer lines in the event the units are sold individually-Fees may be increased before this is project is finally approved- Current fees are on website-tie in, development, flow charge will apply-Septic is governed by Board of Health and should take water table into consideration (applicants say it is not high water)-Applicant advised to get on the list as soon as possible-single family lot house was torn down and so will be subject to permit fees and I&I fee only-Because it is a new building it is considered a new flow, cannot consider

existing flow as the house is not currently there-Next steps are final drawings and board review/approval

**Beech Street**-no updates on water coming from manhole, water dept to investigate

**Dyer St** – refund Mike Gaspar, Chuck left message for him, no new drawings have been presented

**Boiler Update** -Rick Kotuch- Chuck reviewed all minutes up to July 2022 and found 9/16/21 the board had not seen any of the bid information-bid package was never provided to the commissioners- from Rick-when this was put out to bid he had not seen the bid nor knew who was awarded-Veolia responsibility was to make sure the project did not affect the digester process-s part of the contract included provision for contractor to provide a temporary boiler which they did with the town responsible for the oil to run the temporary boiler – process was not affected – a few weeks ago when the boiler was finished, the state would not allow the town to run the boiler on methane gas- methane gas was shut down and the process is now running on the boiler oil – this happened because a new inspector is now in charge-(Hallum is now working on the bid scope for piping)-Boiler was to be completed before the cold weather arrived-town inspector allowed temporary hookup until gas pipe is replaced-the state inspector overrules the town inspector- Wilkinson informed Rick the state has made an exception to allow methane gas for a period of six months –Ms. Vallie would like to see any exceptions put in writing-it was allowed to be installed as methane because it was classified as “test mode”- Discussion is ongoing for payment of extra oil, payment to be withheld until job is complete- it was supposed to be finished in September and there are no contingencies for the extra oil – There were a number of delays in the construction-

### **Boiler Piping**

John Ayotte (Veolia project manager) informed Chuck they are unable to prepare the bid scope – Preparation will be done by Weston Sampson and quote is being prepared – Hope is to submit to town administrator in a week-Still waiting for bid specs from Hallum-Piping needs to be completed within six months exception – extension may be required if supply takes longer- Concern over lower pressure burning out boiler, but it does not seem to have an impact-questionable on maintain sludge temperature-Rick will continue to be main contact- this project will be covered by arpa funds- expecting to sue steel pipe but state is now requiring stainless steel which is more expensive -

SSO by Rick K

Sanitary Sewer Overflow event-when it rains, groundwater seeps into sewer pipes through holes cracks etc causing infiltration-inflow is rain quickly flowing into sewer system and through sump pumps-the storm of January 26 caused flow to run to 6.8 MGD -(plant is designed for 2.5 MGD and capable of maximum of 6 MGD for a limited time) – currently have tank storage for excess of a million gallons – with full storage tanks it was necessary to bypass full treatment – Mass DEP instituted notification plan in July 2022 which resulted in phone call to residents -The overflow was treated with primary treatment and chemicals – a million gallons partially treated was discharged to French’s Stream – last overflow was December 2019- Residents were notified through town emergency system- Residents did not know their drinking water was unaffected and discharge was not raw sewage – Board of Health, water all departments were getting phone calls- For this storm, over 50 communities experienced an overflow- Optimally, the plant should have a normal process flow of 2 MGD with the .5MGD to accommodate heavy rains and the exceptional events such as occurred would be accommodated by the storage tank holdings- Infiltration inflow causes dilution of the flow but it also decreases the efficiency of the sewage plant – if the overflow had not been discharged, the town businesses and residents would have backed up -Need to post consumer oriented information instead of the technical information-Need to realize that high velocity flows will cause stress on weak pipes etc-SSOS study is good for five years and then needs to be done again-Discussion on how best to inform residents, maybe change the verbiage-

**Underground storage tanks**-need to be addressed by August-

**Effluent meter**-up and running, comparing flows etc

### **Administrative Report**

- 42 Deer Ridge spillage- Rick was notified by David Burns of MassDEP that an SSO should be filed- emergency mark out was needed- plumbing issue by homeowner caused less than 10 gallons sewer spilled on the ground from trailer sewage connection-because this is on private property an SSO was not required (if spilled on street it would require notice) this was explained to David Burns-
- Carbon Monoxide detectors- project to replace all the fire alarm detectors – Rick asked if CO detectors can be installed and quote to be provided-this project is part of Veolia R&M -these will be dual detectors with fire & CO
- 260 Pleasant St there are two existing stubs (2 lots) so betterment fee must have been paid-currently this is a vacant lot-Robyn to research- owner is Brian Taylor
- 48 Cary St-three parcels, one single family & duplex, with another single family later – prints not submitted
- Sewer Dept does not have a formal physical application- it just gets approved by the board-waitlist si up to dept –
- Water dept has lifted moratorium only for single family homes and renovations – single families are not part of moratorium
- Robyn needs copies of any articles for town meeting
- Notice of non-compliance – Chuck to handle – failed to submit compliance certification – correspondence being sent in is not being received properly- Rick may have additional info – Penalty fi not resolved by February 25
- Department is not getting UPSP mail regularly, Veolia should be doing this
- EPA notice regarding ITW Polymer, which is now Wholesome had a chemical spill that went into the stormwater drain-
- 92R Josh Gray Rd- single family planned for lot but no stub or betterment fee paid for this address- stub is at Moncrief & Brooks Rd- there appears to be an easement- Gary Merrill confirmed the stub belongs to the property-Robyn to follow up to see if betterment fee was paid
- Permit requests are being received but approval not needed by the department because the footprint of the building is not changing and not converting to multi (3) family (411 Pond St was used as an example and Ms Vallie recused from the discussion of this property-Conflict of Interest forms were filed by both Mr. Heshion and Ms. Vallie)
- 506 Beech St project does not include plumbing and does change building footprint, conversion of existing garage space to bedroom and no bedroom
- 18 Phillips St renovating kitchen and adding a bath and adding full bath, no change to footprint
- 107 Myrtle St removal of garage and construction of accessory apartment – previously voted
- 73 Willow Pond renovating kitchen and adding 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bathroom
- 265 Plain St renovating bathroom

**Motion by Mr. Heshion to approve permits for 506 Beech St, 18 Phillips St, 73Willow Pond, 265 Plain St with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Vallie- all in favor 3-0**

**Motion by Mr. Heshion to approve permit for 411 Pond St with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Duross and Ms Vallie recused from the vote – all in favor 2-0**

- 17 John Burke Dr-Jim Facino running sewer under new garage-Mr. Heshion requested it be moved between home and garage addition – permit will be rejected if not moved – he is currently not on drainlayers list, references were acceptable-new drawing to be provided
- 258 Union St still pending-need actual plains
- 268 Concord emergency sewer repair also caused water pipe damage- one other house owned by same person was connected properly-this address did not have proper documentation
- Mike Gaspar of Dyer St no drawings and no communications yet regarding refund request
- 109 West Water-retaining wall and run off issues- Pat Burns will send report to dept-
- Rockland Rink sign off-Atty Galvin has said notification is complete- sign off has been completed

-IPP Permit audit-need to add 4 dental offices and car wash – Environmental Partners (Ryan Paul) had been commissioned to review IP program- we need language for the discharge permits to be in compliance with the new NPDES language- still need language for carwash (have dental office language) need to figure out what needs to be added and who will add it

-GIS desktop-satisfactory for Veolia – training to be rescheduled – one of the layers on the system could include permits and it will notify when renewals are needed – will also include I&I remediation information – not sure if there is a cost for the training

-Keltron application not yet received, still operating under existing permit-fire suppression system activated and that's where the chemicals came from – that's what went into tow drainage, both Gary and Highway verified no chemicals went into the sewer system – application still needs to be update- 687 Beech Hill water is spouting from manhole, Water department determined not their issue, Dave Taylor looked and it is sewer issue- Filler in the hole has migrated and creates a blockage when it rains – Cold weather is a problem with freezing – need drainlayer to excavate and repair – Mr. Heshion will contact Glen Lapointe – discussion to put cones in the street until it can be fixed, highway is salting and sanding the area, Robyn will check about putting a cone out

**-Motion to accept renewal of drainlayer Glen LaPointe made by Mr. Duross with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Vallie all in favor 3-0**

-A Betterment Fee was charged with people's taxes when sewer was originally installed- if not paid or connected at that time, they must pay it now- assessors office keeps track of these fees –

-If house is sold in Rockland, is there a sump pump inspection – Not sure what department is responsible for inspections-Should be sewer department responsibility

### **Town Meeting Articles & Budget – Sherri Vallie**

Capital planning should be put on the agenda next week to answer questions before meeting with the capital planning board – general discussion if Spruce Street would be covered by ARPA, pump repairs, annual control year 2 even though funding is out of general budget, - Money for the articles comes from money left over from FY22- town accountant says we may have more than \$130,00 to apply to articles- this year is going to be very tight-

-Other info- piping from arpa and commingling another article to make up shortage- questionable if oil bills would be covered by arpa -Atty Kenny never saw the contract for the boiler work – Mr. Heshion has all relevant documents – Mr. Heshion reviewed history of bids and contracts – Plymouth county approved \$515,000 for digester and piping and \$315,000 has been received by the town-oil has never been accounted for and if would impact either article money or remaining arpa money-

-Underground storage issue is EPA mandate for all and must be completed by August 2023 to comply with regulations -Rick K is aware and will have to look into see if the tanks are encased

-Ordinance changes need to be in an article, Ms. Vallie will be meeting with town administrator to submit that article- mimic document as rules & regulations so sewer department can make changes without going to town meeting

### **Fees Discussion**

Documents have been sent out for discussion – but time is limited for this meeting –

Mr. Heshion factored various expenses on his estimates with a cost of \$5.36 per gallon with \$0.536 as an additional fee (engineering) – single homeowners will not be able to afford to pay what it will cost to remove I&I- Development fees are used to cover the cost of I&I and Ms. Vallie would like to see that not used to cover the cost – Not using development fees to cover I&I makes the cost prohibitive – Because we are at capacity, we cannot take on more large developments, and there are three pending in the approvals process with the town-Perhaps review \$8,000 fee to see if that would alleviate the problem –

-Fees were set in 2004 and the first increase was in 2020 with a subsequent increase in 2021 – I&I removal is required when flow exceeds 440 gallons per day – Need to review proposals from Mr. Heshion, Ms. Vallie and Mr. Taylor – Development fees could be increased as Rockland is in line with other towns – Have to careful fee increases do not adversely impact small builders – if Development fee

is not used for repair & maintenance then the residents pay for that fee – Moratorium has to be revisited

-Discussion to be continued

**EPA Update**

EPA attorney contacted our attorney for update – Mr. Heshion instructed Weston Sampson to forward bid scopes, contractor submissions – It is believed they are evaluating a potential fine

**Phosphorus narrative** to be ready today and after next week will approach board of selectmen to reuest bond

**Motion made by Dan Duross, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherri Vallie, to adjourn at 2:05 PM All in favor 3-0.**

Documents to be included:

Sign in Sheet for attendees

Notice of non compliance from

Next working session scheduled for February 8, 2023

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2023